

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A disc cartridge, comprising:

a disc in a disc shape, including a recording layer for recording/reproducing information;  
a disc cover for covering at least a surface for recording/reproducing, which is accessed  
by a head for recording/reproducing information with respect to the disc; and  
connecting means for connecting the disc and the disc cover,  
wherein a side of the disc, which is opposite to the side of the disc covered by the disc  
cover, is exposed externally,

the disc has a disc projected section in an inner circumference part of the disc, the disc  
projected section being projected toward the disc cover,

the connecting means is a movable projecting section provided on the disc cover, and one  
end of the movable projecting section is inserted in or pulled out with respect to a recessed  
section provided on a side wall of the disc projected section, and

when the one end of the movable projecting section goes into the recessed section, an  
opposite end of the movable projecting section is hooked and stopped by a recessed hooked  
section inside the disc cover.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 1, wherein the disc  
includes a disc substrate, the recording layer, and a protective layer, which is transparent, in this  
order, wherein the at least part of the side of the disc, on which the protective layer is formed, is  
covered by the disc cover so that the side of the disc on which the protective layer is formed is  
subjected to light projected thereon, so as to record/reproduce information.

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Claim 3 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 1, wherein the disc cover includes an outer touching section that touches the disc in a vicinity of an outer circumference thereof when the disc cover is connected with the disc.

Claim 4 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 3, wherein the outer touching section is made of an elastic material.

Claim 5 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 1, wherein the disc cover includes an inner touching section that touches the disc in a vicinity of an inner circumference thereof when the disc cover is connected with the disc.

Claim 6 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 5, wherein the inner touching section is made of an elastic material.

Claims 7-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 2, wherein the protective layer has a thickness ranging from 0 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 11 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 2, wherein the disc substrate is made of an anti-static material.

Claim 12 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 2, wherein the disc substrate is made of a material selected from resins, metals and glasses.

Claim 13 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 2, wherein the protective layer is made of an anti-static material.

Claim 14 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 2, wherein the protective layer is made of a material whose surface is slippery.

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Claim 15 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 2, wherein the protective layer is made of a material selected from resins and glasses.

Claim 16 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least a part of the disc cover is made of a material selected from resins and metals.

Claim 17 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 1 wherein the disc cover has a side wall around an outer circumference thereof, the side wall being projected toward the disc so as to protect an outer circumference side surface of the disc.

Claim 18 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 17, wherein the disc cover has a region which has no side wall in at least part of the outer circumference of the disc cover.

Claim 19 (original): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 17, wherein at least a part of the side wall is for opening/closing.

Claims 20-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (new): A disc cartridge, comprising:

- a disc in a disc shape, including a recording layer for recording/reproducing information;
- a disc cover for covering at least a surface for recording/reproducing, which is accessed by a head for recording/reproducing information with respect to the disc; and

- connecting means for connecting the disc and the disc cover,
- wherein a side of the disc, which is opposite to the side of the disc covered by the disc cover, is exposed externally,

- the connecting means is a disc holding lock provided on the disc cover for mechanically holding an outer circumference part of the disc, and

- one end of the disc holding lock is positioned in a ditch provided on a side wall of the disc cover.

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Claim 28 (new): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 27, wherein the disc cover has a side wall around an outer circumference thereof, the side wall being projected toward the disc.

Claim 29 (new): A disc drive for using the disc cartridge as set forth in claim 27, the disc drive comprising:

- the head for recording/reproducing with respect to the disc; and
- separating means for separating the disc and the disc cover,

wherein the separating means is a projected section formed along the side wall of the disc cover,

when the disc cartridge is inserted in the disc drive, the projected section pushes one end of the disc holding lock, thus unlocking the disc, and

the head is inserted between the disc and the disc cover so that the recording/reproducing is performed.

Claim 30 (new): The disc drive as set forth in claim 29, wherein the head includes a magnetic head section for applying a magnetic field onto the disc, and an optical head section for projecting and detecting a laser beam.

Claim 31 (new): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 27, wherein the connecting means is the disc holding lock that is provided on the disc cover and is rotated arbitrarily,

and the opposite end of the disc holding lock switches a rotation angle in the outer circumference part of the disc so that the disc is locked or unlocked.

Claim 32 (new): A disc cartridge, comprising:

- a disc in a disc shape, including a recording layer for recording/reproducing information;
- a disc cover for covering at least a surface for recording/reproducing, which is accessed by a head for recording/reproducing information with respect to the disc; and

- connecting means for connecting the disc and the disc cover,

wherein a side of the disc, which is opposite to the side of the disc covered by the disc cover, is exposed externally, and the disc cover includes a shutter for switching between an open

position in which the surface for recording/reproducing of the disc is exposed and a closed position.

Claim 33 (new): The disc cartridge as set forth in claim 32, wherein the connecting means is a hub holding notched section of the shutter, and

when the shutter is closed, the hub holding notched section causes a hub provided in an inner circumference part of the disc to be hooked and fixed therein, and the shutter is locked by being hooked and fixed inside the disc cover.

Claim 34 (new): A disc drive for using the disc cartridge as set forth in claim 33, the disc drive comprising:

the head for recording/reproducing with respect to the disc; and  
shutter opening/closing means for opening/closing the shutter,  
wherein when the disc cartridge is inserted into the disc drive, the shutter is unlocked,  
and

when the disc cartridge is loaded in the disc drive, the head is moved close to the disc that is exposed through the shutter opened by the shutter opening/closing means.

Claim 35 (new): The disc drive as set forth in claim 34, wherein the head includes a magnetic head section for applying a magnetic field onto the disc, and an optical head section for projecting and detecting a laser beam.

Claim 36 (new): A disc drive for using the disc cartridge as set forth in claim 32, the disc drive comprising:

the head for recording/reproducing with respect to the disc; and  
shutter opening/closing means for opening/closing the shutter,  
wherein when the disc cartridge is loaded in the disc drive, the head is moved close to the disc that is exposed through the shutter opened by the shutter opening/closing means.

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Claim 37 (new): The disc drive as set forth in claim 36, wherein the head includes a magnetic head section for applying a magnetic field onto the disc, and an optical head section for projecting and detecting a laser beam.

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